

to you about the fact that you are about to hit your lifetime cap. So now, not only are you lying there sick in the hospital bed, but you are also thinking about how you are going to pay your mortgage and keep your kids in college. That is not going to happen anymore.

So when you hear people talk about repeal—and first of all, repeal with no plan to replace it. I mean, the only thing coming from the other side is, just get rid of this whole thing. There is no plan to replace it.

So I think what we owe the American people is, when we talk about repealing a law, especially something as important and big as this, I think it is a very fair and necessary question to ask: What are you going to replace it with? Are we going to go back to the old system, where that cancer patient lying in a hospital bed now is going to hit a lifetime cap with the insurance company so they are going to be told that they either have to leave the hospital or they are going to get stuck with \$250,000 of bills, and they have to sell their house because they can't afford it anymore? When you hear the word "repeal," you should understand that that is what is at stake, that is what we would go back to, the old system.

Until folks come up with an alternative—and in 4 years, there has been no alternative, and really, there is no reason to think that over the next 4 years there is going to be one. Unless you can come up with an alternative, then we are talking about going back to that time.

But the thing that I wanted to mention and something that is often overlooked here is that part of the Affordable Care Act, another benefit of it is that mental health care coverage is vastly expanded because of the Affordable Care Act. That is extremely important. Millions of families in this country, individuals and families, have either suffered themselves or have family members who suffer from serious depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, other mental health afflictions that—quite frankly, in America and many other countries of the world, for the longest time, we never took mental health issues as seriously as we have taken physical health issues.

So for a long time, people would tell you, oh, you are depressed. Well, you just need to snap out of it. Or they treated things like bipolar disorder very lightly. They thought somebody just had a bad attitude.

In Texas, in 2011, I and others worked on getting young people with serious emotional disturbances covered by insurance companies in Texas. And, you know, the Democrats are in a deep minority in Texas. The whole time I was there, for five terms, we were in a deep minority. So you would have a Republican-controlled legislature. And my bill went nowhere. It didn't go anywhere. It died. So serious emotional disturbances weren't covered. But under the Affordable Care Act, things like that will be.

The reason that was important was because families were coming to me—in my district office, there is one family in particular that came to me and said, We are scared of our son. Our son is a teenager, and he has gotten violent before. So we call the cops. The cops take him to the hospital. There is nowhere to keep him for any kind of long-term treatment because, by the way, the State provides inadequate resources for mental health care coverage. They can't really put him in jail unless he has really assaulted somebody. So there is just this cycle, where we are having this issue with our son, and we are scared to be in the same house with him. But we can't really do anything. And the law offers us no relief.

Well, one of the benefits of the Affordable Care Act is that serious emotional disturbances and many other mental health issues will now be taken more seriously, and they will be more covered by health care companies than they have ever been in the history of the United States. And that hasn't been a big focus because a lot of this has been about politics. And a lot of the milestones and, quite frankly, the celebrations about the more than 7 million people signing up, that has been the big focus of this whole thing. But we shouldn't overlook some of the things that haven't gotten as much attention.

For me, as somebody that worked on mental health legislation in Texas, and I know many other people, Republicans and Democrats, have worked on things like that—to the families who are dealing with situations like that, that is a big deal. That means a lot to them. And that is helping them out.

So, as Americans, when you hear folks talk about repealing this law, I hope that we all fully understand exactly what we would be going back to. And those legislators who propose repealing it are irresponsible if they don't provide to the American people a full alternative and an explanation for what that alternative would do for them and what it would cost for the country. You know what the Affordable Care Act is about. We have seen no plan on the other side.

So as I close, I would like to say "thank you" to all the Members of Congress from different places in the Nation who joined me today in talking about this milestone for the Affordable Care Act. I am very personally glad that over 7 million people have now signed up and are benefiting. And millions more are benefiting through Medicaid expansion, college students, and all of these people who won't be kicked off of insurance because they have hit lifetime caps. Or, you know, somebody that tries to get insurance, and the insurance company sends them a letter back saying, we can't insure you because you have a preexisting condition, or your doctor submits a bill to the insurance company, as it used to be, and the insurance company writes back

saying, Well, you know what, we are not going to cover that \$3,000 bill because you had a preexisting condition. That is what repeal would be about, going backward.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE STATE OF OUR CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be able to stand here today with my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) and Mr. WENSTRUP from Ohio, behind me, in order to talk a little bit about not only the state of our country but of our Congress. When we came here 3 years ago, we were on a mission to get America back to work. We have watched now over the last 3 years. And some of the criticism that comes about all the time is, You know, you guys just aren't getting anything done. I hear people talk about not getting anything done, about being a do-nothing Congress, about not really pushing the agenda forward, about us not being able to get America back to work.

Well, today, Mr. MARINO, our colleagues, and I are going to be here in the position of myth-busters. This myth that somehow the House of Representatives—and I think the key to this is that there are actually two Chambers to this Congress. There is a House of Representatives and there is a Senate. In the House of Representatives, we have done incredible work over the last 3 years. We are talking about 220 House-passed bills that are stuck in the do-nothing Senate. And of those 220 bills, 30-plus of those bills are about job creation. They are about getting America back to work. They are about giving people confidence in the future that they can look forward and begin to plan their lives.

Now, we can't do it alone. And while we get criticism from the administration and as we look down the hall to the Senate, we start to wonder ourselves, what would it take to get America engaged in this process? What would it take to get our American citizens aware of what is actually going on in the Capitol? Why is it that we are stuck here? Why can't we move forward?

So today's exercise—for the next 60 minutes, Mr. MARINO, myself, and our other colleagues are going to have an opportunity to speak to the people of the United States to make sure that we expose this myth that this is a do-nothing Congress. No, no, no, no. This is not a do-nothing Congress. This is a Congress that has worked very hard. This is a Congress that has done monumental work to get our fellow Americans back to work.

The problem is, when you walk it down the halls and into the Senate, it

gets lost. It gets tabled. It doesn't get amended. It doesn't get discussed. It doesn't get debated. In fact, it doesn't do anything. It just collects dust.

So I welcome this opportunity to speak not just to this House but also to the people of America. And at this time, I would like my colleague and my good friend in Congress, Mr. MARINO from Pennsylvania, to also weigh in on this.

Mr. MARINO. Thank you, Congressman KELLY. I appreciate this. It is an honor to be here with you, and it is an honor to be setting the record straight.

You know, I spent a couple minutes in here listening to my colleagues about what we are not doing and what they are doing. The facts and figures that they are throwing out are coming from the White House. They change on a regular basis. We will get into that stuff in a little bit.

But I want to hold up something and show it to the American people and then touch on it a little bit, about what we have done in the House of Representatives. What the Republicans have done in the House of Representatives for the 113th Congress—that is just last year and this year. That is not including the legislation that we passed in the 112th Congress, from 2011 to 2012.

I am holding in my hand here the names, the numbers, the dates, and the details of 220 bills that the House passed—220 bills. Some of it was with support from a handful of Democrats who saw that this is good legislation, that it will create jobs, it will keep taxes low. It does away with job-crushing regulation. It lets the private sector do what it does best. It allows the hardworking taxpayers to have a level playing field.

I am just going to recite some of the bills. I am not going to go over nearly all 220 bills that are sitting on Democrat Senate Leader HARRY REID's desk that he refuses to bring to the floor for a vote. I ask the Democrat leader: Senator REID, what are you afraid of? Why do you not bring these bills to the floor for a vote so the American people can see the legislation and how their Senators vote for it? They can see it right here in the House. They can go to our Web site. They can go to the congressional Web site. They can see how we voted on legislation.

I think it is despicable that one person in Congress can hold up 220 pieces of legislation and hide it from the American people. And do you know why he does it? Politics. There is an election coming up this year. He doesn't want his Democrat Senators to have a voting record. Well, that is why we are here. We are supposed to have a voting record. We are supposed to represent the American people.

Some of the legislation concerns energy, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act, H.R. 2231; Northern Route Approval Act, H.R. 3; hydropower regulation; Energy Consumers Relief; Coal Residuals Reuse; Federal Lands; En-

ergy and Water appropriations; Department of Defense appropriations; Homeland Security appropriations; Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs; the SKILLS Act; Student Success Act; the RAPID Act, which does away with regulation and time that prevents businesses from creating jobs. And who creates the jobs the best? The private industry.

□ 1645

Look, the Federal Government has a rough time keeping Amtrak on time, and they are always way over budget, and we are going to trust them with health care? We are going to trust the Federal Government with creating jobs when entrepreneurs are the best people, women and men, to do that?

Any time you want to see what legislation is on Mr. REID's desk, you just go to the Web site, the congressional Web site and see what was passed.

You are going to hear some facts and figures. I was a prosecutor for 18 years. Actually, I started working in a bakery, a wholesale bakery, at 17. I worked in that bakery until I was 33. The owner died, and a new company came in. They overlooked me for a promotion because I didn't have a college degree, but they wanted me to train the guy with the college degree coming in. I went home and said to my wife: I want to go to college and law school. My wife worked full-time, and I worked part-time. We got through college and law school, which normally takes 7 years, in 5 years. I wouldn't have been able to do it without my wife.

But I know what it is like to work in a factory 60 and 65 hours a week. I know what it is like to stretch a paycheck. My wife knows what it is like to stretch a dollar from here to next year. And I also know what it is like in the criminal justice system as a prosecutor for 18 years. I have seen it all. I have seen the worst sides of life that I have ever seen. But do you know what I have a passion for? It is the children. And our children's future now is dismal.

My father gave me a better life than he had. I am not sure I can do that for my children. They are now looking at over \$50,000 of debt—each of them. So that means that every dollar that they earn, over 50 percent of it—if we ever get to the point to pay the debt down—is going to our debt.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

At this time, I am going to yield to a new Member from the State of Ohio. BRAD WENSTRUP is with us today. He has done remarkable work since he has gotten here in just a little over a year.

So, Mr. WENSTRUP, thank you for being with us today.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Thank you very much. I appreciate that, Mr. KELLY.

Mr. Speaker, we have a problem. We have an inactive Senate with HARRY REID at the helm as the majority leader. Someone on the Senate side seems to have hit the pause button, and it has been stuck there for a while, and we

are having to deal with that. But here in the House of Representatives, the people's House, we have passed over 200 bills since I came to Congress that just seem to be gathering dust over in the Senate.

We have hardly been inactive on this side of Congress taking up important energy, education, health care reforms, and numerous jobs bills—some Republican bills, some Democratic bills—and most passed with bipartisan support. Yet Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID has thrown them on the ground.

Ohioans ask me what we are doing here in Washington, D.C. I am at my wit's end trying to explain that every reform-minded bill that I have supported that we passed on behalf of the American people is stuck in the Senate. It is a legislative purgatory. It just sits. And I don't wish that on my fellow Ohioans or my fellow Americans. I am not asking the Senate to agree with every bill that we pass, Mr. Speaker, but at least allow a vote and at least allow a discussion.

One example is the Keystone XL pipeline. The energy security legislation passed the House with bipartisan support nearly a year ago; 241 Members of Congress voted for the Northern Route Approval Act. More than that, a filibuster-proof majority of Senators, Republicans and Democrats, are on the record as supporting this project.

A recent Washington Post-ABC poll demonstrates that the American people also support the goals of this legislation of building the pipeline by nearly a three-to-one margin. But the Senate has thrown the bill on the floor blocking any vote. Does the Senate have a solution? Not really. They just seem to want to stand in the way.

Another example is the SKILLS Act. I hear from Ohioans frustrated that Washington isn't working, especially in year 6 of this Obama economy with disappointing job growth. And as we continue to face unacceptable unemployment levels, the Senate refuses to take commonsense steps to get Americans back to work.

Over a year ago, I was proud to support the SKILLS Act, legislation that would have helped job seekers, helped employers, reformed government, and cut bureaucratic costs so that more money can go directly to help people getting back to work. This legislation offers a long-term solution to help those looking for work, combined with smart government reforms. And what do we hear from Senate leadership? Nothing.

It is bipartisan frustration, I think, on some parts because these aren't just Republican bills that are being blocked. Nearly three dozen Democratic-sponsored bills have passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle—no action in the Senate. These are noncontroversial bills. But some in the Senate are more concerned with demonizing individual Americans than helping every American.

The legislative branch is the most direct representation of the American people, yet the Senate leader is content to hand over his constitutional responsibilities to President Obama and the executive branch rather than do his job and to legislate. It is a myth that this is a do-nothing Congress, but we are witnessing a do-nothing Senate.

I ask Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID: relieve this legislative backlog; hundreds of bills and millions of Americans are waiting.

Here in the House, we have taken action. We are active. We have taken the vote. We have taken the action as far as we can take it, and America waits for a further response. Most of these bills that we pass usually involve having less government involvement, not more, not more involvement. The table is set. Our Founders set it up in such a way that we are to represent the people and we are to act, and the Senate is to act, and we are all supposed to come together at the table. I have been here just over a year, and I have been waiting at that table. I have been waiting for the Senate to engage with us. I have been waiting for the President to engage with us. But that hasn't happened.

I left a medical practice to serve here, and I am proud and honored to be here. People often ask me, well, what is the difference between a doctor and being here? Well, as a doctor, I can make a diagnosis. I can get together with a patient and their family and provide a treatment, and together we go to work on that. It takes both of us to do that. Sometimes when you make the suggestion of a treatment, you even suggest that there be a second opinion. And I can tell you right now on all of these things that we have passed, all these treatments that we have recommended, we are still waiting for our second opinion from the Senate.

The House is active. We are waiting for the Senate to take up the arm and do their job, as well.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank Mr. WENSTRUP.

Mr. MARINO and I were talking for a second. Mr. MARINO had touched on something that had just happened recently when you talked about activity on the Senate floor and inactivity on the Senate floor. There was a night not too long ago where the Senate talked all night long, and I think Mr. MARINO wants to just touch on that right now.

Mr. MARINO. If this were not nauseating, it would be hilarious. There are millions of people out of work, Mr. Speaker, millions of people who are losing their health care and millions more whose health care is increasing. There are 230 pieces of legislation sitting on HARRY REID's desk. And do you know what they debated a couple weeks ago all night on the floor? Nothing to do with jobs, nothing to do with deregulation, and nothing to do with getting out of the way of the hardworking taxpayer business. They de-

bated climate change all night on the floor.

Now, there is no one that is more than a conservationist than myself. I live out in the country. I love seeing the bear and the deer walk across my property. I get my water from a well. My children have grown up there. I will do everything I can to protect my children and make sure that the air they are breathing is clean, the water is clean, and the land is pristine. But do you know something? I am pretty sure the hardworking taxpayers, the people in this country, the farmers in my district, and the entrepreneurs in my district want to see the government get out of the way and let entrepreneurs and business do what it does.

I am a states' rights guy. I believe the less Federal Government in my life the better. That is proven by—I just met with a group of entrepreneurs a little earlier. They are called start-ups. They are young kids. They are geniuses who know the IT industry and who create apps, create hardware, and create software. They are saying to me: Congressman, our hands are tied. We are being overregulated, and we have a lot of good ideas that will help the American people.

You are going to be hearing some figures quoted. I am not a big figure guy, but I think it is important that you listen to these figures and see these figures. But I want to tell you where I got them, because as a prosecutor, I always had to back up, in court, where I got my evidence and cite it.

You have all heard of the Congressional Budget Office. We refer to it as the CBO. I am going to tell you just in two sentences what the Congressional Budget Office does. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, is a Federal agency within the legislative branch of the United States Government that provides economic data to Congress. The CBO was created as a nonpartisan agency by the Congressional Budget and Improvement Control Act of 1974, which means they are independent. They are not Republican, and they are not Democrat. These are people who crunch numbers, make estimates, bring us information, and then submit it to us so the American people know what the actual facts are.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Mr. MARINO.

We all have similar experiences. I know you do, BRAD, when you are back home; and, TOM, I know you do when you are back home. It really doesn't matter where we are. A lot of times it is coming out of Mass on Sunday morning, and sometimes it is just being down at the K-Mart or the Walmart, or maybe I am up in Erie and I am out near Presque Isle, or I could be in Grove City or I could be in Slippery Rock, and people come up to me all the time and say: Do you know what? You all need to get busy. And they talk about: We don't want to hear any more about the battles between Republicans and Democrats. Quite frankly, we are

tired of hearing it because, if you can't work together, you can't get things done. And then the question that comes up is: Can't you just compromise once in a while to get something done? And then you have got to scratch your head and say: Yes, but, do you know what? We are doing an awful lot right now, but you are just not hearing it.

The reason that comes about, and we all know this, is because the biggest megaphone in the country right now is at the White House.

Now, BRAD, you and I sat here, and, TOM, you and I sat here during the State of the Union. The President made a very chilling statement. He said:

America can't wait, and I can't wait. And if this Congress won't act the way I want it to do, I will go around them, and I will get it done.

Half of this side of the House stood up and cheered that, cheered up their forfeiture of their duty of the oath that they took when they came into office.

Now, I stand here today as a representative of Pennsylvania's Third District. That does not mean that I only represent Republicans that live in the Third District of Pennsylvania. That does not mean that I am only concerned with the concerns of Republicans in the Third District of Pennsylvania. That does not mean that I represent anything else but every single person—every citizen—that resides within that district.

So the things we are talking about today are not Republican issues, and they are not Democrat issues. These are American issues. We are talking about American jobs. We are talking about getting back to work. We are talking about coming here, taking an oath of office, and then fulfilling that oath to the people who sent us.

Now, I know that you go through the same thing. I have many people that approach me and say: Do you know what, MIKE? I didn't vote for you. And I say to them: Well, do you know what? I didn't know that until right now, but I will forget about it, believe me. And they will say: Well, this is an issue I have, and these are some things that concern me, and I just want to know where are you all going and what is it that you are trying to do? And why can't you get America back to work? Because you all said when you ran for office that we have got to get this Nation back on track and we have got to get America moving in the right direction. We have got to get America being America again.

We know that oftentimes in our life we look at all the problems we have, and the answer to everything right now is these things need fixing. Now, how do you do that? You can only do it with a very dynamic and robust economy. So when I hear the conversation that takes place either in our Chamber or the Senate Chamber and you start to say to yourself, it is nice to have that conversation, it is nice to have that little talk, and it is nice to have that debate, but do you know what? You

haven't created any jobs. Because without a dynamic and robust economy, it is all just idle chatter. It is just politicians getting up, speaking and hoping that somehow they hit a chord with some constituents somewhere that says, boy, she is speaking for me or he is speaking for me.

□ 1700

We speak for everybody, not just the towns we come from or the townships we come from or the counties we come from or the States we come from, but this entire country.

So when we look at what is going on now and people say: yes, you say that is going on, but you know what, there is no proof.

Here is what I would ask our friends to do because the President says this all the time. He says: you know what, pick up your phone or pick up your pen, and that is what I am going to do, and I am going to get things done; I am going to use my executive powers, which are vast and enormous, to do what I want to do, despite what Congress may say, despite especially what those characters in the House of Representatives are pushing down your throat because that is just not what I want you to hear.

Well, my message to the American people is: you all have phones, and you all have pens, and you all have the ability, because of the country we live in, to speak out on anything, any time, anywhere you want; no place else in the world can we do that.

As an example today, as my colleagues and I are doing—because, as I said earlier, it is time to do some mythbusting, it is time to call a halt to this idle chatter about what America really needs.

We know what America really needs. America needs to get back to work, and this Congress needs to get out of the job creators' way. We need to get the heavy regulatory boot of the government off the throat of our job creators, and we need to let them breathe again.

We need to let them look to the future with some certainty and know that you can go ahead and plan. You can go ahead and make a strategy. You can go ahead and look to the future with a great degree of success waiting for you.

Now, opportunity is there for everybody. There is equal opportunity. There is no question about that. We know there is not equal outcome. My goodness, that is just not the case.

We do know that hardworking Americans throughout our history have done things that are absolutely incredible, and they have done it because of a government that lets people be free. It gives them liberty to go on and do what they need to do and when they want to do it and the ways that they want to do it.

There is no place else in the world, so the question comes down to: Why now? Why now have we hit such a logjam?

Why is it that we can't get a law to get America back to work?

The answer is quite simple. Mr. MARINO has talked about it. Mr. WENSTRUP has talked about it. My goodness, there is another election coming, and if it truly comes down to we can't get these things done because of another election coming, then we can never get anything done because there are elections every year.

Now, if Mr. REID can say to his people in the Senate and if he can look to this country and if he can go on TV and tell people these things you are hearing about the health care law are all lies, these things have been conjured up by people who don't really exist, the stories that they are spreading are lies, there is not a shred of evidence that would support what they have said—now, he stands in front of the American people and says that you are all liars and that we are not going to tolerate that type of behavior.

Then he goes behind his desk at the Senate and said: all of those pieces of legislation, those 220 House-passed bills, put them on the table because we are not going to talk about them. We are not going to debate them. We are not going to amend them. And you know why we are not? Because there is an election coming.

Right now, there are a third of the Senate Members up for election. That is their rotation—a third, a third, and a third. Every couple of years, there is a third reelected, or new Senators come in.

He has placed the reelection above the redirection of this country. The reelection of his Senate is more important to him than the redirection of this country. That is absolutely unforgivable.

So I would just ask our friends, as they listen—and this is a message to America, not so much to the House of Representatives or to the Senate because we are pretty much ignored, but let me just say this: for those of you who are at home and listening to this, there are several things you can do.

I said about picking up your phone or picking up your pen. How about this, just getting on your computer. Go to www.speaker.gov/jobs. You can also go to majorityleader.gov/bill-tracker.

What will these two sites give you? They will give you everything we are talking about. It is all there. You don't have to come to Washington to see us. You don't have to send away for a book.

You don't have to do anything except go online and pick up this information. You can sit at home and see what it is this House of Representatives has passed; and then you, too, can sit, as myself, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. WENSTRUP do every day, and ask: What is it that we are waiting for?

The answer is leadership; quite simply, it is leadership. America, right now, is hunting for champions. They are hunting for people who will rise up and take control of this situation, and

this idea that, somehow, somewhere, some knight in shining armor has to come riding in on a white charger to get us there is baloney because, every election, it comes right out your hometown.

It comes right out of your churches, and it comes right out of the folks you work with every day and have grown up with and have lived life with. That is who is here. That is who is here. It is so unique; it is the only place in the world that you can do it.

I just tell you, because of the social media, you can go as an individual in your home. You don't have to get in your car and drive anywhere. You don't have to waste any money on gas. You don't have to worry about sitting in traffic.

Just sit at home and go to those two sites, www.speaker.gov/jobs or majorityleader.gov/bill-tracker. You can find out everything we are talking about.

Mr. WENSTRUP, you did talk about the Keystone pipeline, and we ask ourselves all the time: What is the holdup on the Keystone pipeline?

One person, one person; and if you don't know where that person is, let me give you a clue: he lives in a white house at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. This is not a tough place to find.

Pick up the phone and call him. Tell him: Mr. President, let's get back to work; Mr. President, let's make America energy independent; Mr. President, let's quit worrying about the next election, and let's get this country back in the right direction.

We can do it as a people. We can do it together. We must do it. It is not just a responsibility. It is our obligation, not just for the future, but to all those from the past.

So I would just tell you, my friends, there is so much going on right now, and I really would like my two colleagues, let's all join, and we can have a colloquy right now between the three of us and talk back and forth because I think it is important for the people of America to understand.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Senators and are further reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I yield to Mr. WENSTRUP.

Mr. WENSTRUP. The gentleman mentioned the Affordable Care Act, and you mentioned a phone and a pen. I would encourage all Americans to use their phone and to use their pen to let the other parts of our government know where you stand and know that you do want to see some action taking place.

We are a Nation of laws, and we should live by the rule of law. It is very difficult for the American people to understand when certain laws are passed and signed by the President and then just changed as though it is a menu, you can just select which laws you want to enforce.

That makes it very difficult for the American people to understand, and it makes our job more difficult, too, as we go ahead and pass laws.

While we are talking about some of the things that we have done here in the House, both in the 112th and in the 113th Congress, we passed the REINS Act. For those who aren't familiar with the REINS Act, basically what it does is it brings more power back into Congress and into those who represent you. It gives you a voice.

We have established, over the years, many agencies where we have empowered those agencies, and we have empowered the people within the agencies to make the decisions, and often, it is punitive, regulatory decisions that they are making, so this makes it very difficult for our businesses.

What the REINS Act does is it says that, if a regulation has a negative economic impact of over \$100 million, then it has to be approved by Congress. That gives you, the people, a chance to reach out to your Representative and let them know how you feel about these regulations, rather than just having a bureaucracy deciding that this is what is going to take place.

As I said, I think, over the years, this body has given up some of that power to these agencies, and that takes it away from the American people, and we want to get that back.

Now, we talk about if it is over \$100 million of negative economic impact. Well, I tell you I rarely see a regulation that has a positive economic impact in America, and so this is an opportunity for us to get that back.

Again, it is something that we passed in the last two Congresses here in the House of Representatives, and it has not been taken up in the Senate.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman, and I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this and many other issues, and I thank him for putting this time together.

Whenever anyone says it is a do-nothing Congress, they are only half right. It is actually a do-nothing Senate.

In this Congress, the House has passed and sent over to the Senate 311 total bills, and we have talked about the 220 jobs-related bill. There are 311 total bills.

In stark contrast, the Senate has sent to the House only 67 bills. The Senate produces just about one-third of what the House does—one-third of the work, Mr. Speaker.

I am not saying that passing bills in and of itself is an unalloyed good. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, is a primary example of that, but it is one way to measure how hard you are working.

From the House Natural Resources Committee I sit on, we have passed six bills opening up American energy that would create over 1 million new jobs,

lower gasoline and electricity prices, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and help lower our national debt by generating over \$1 billion in new revenue. These bills are now stalled in the Senate.

The U.S. Senate has turned into a productivity graveyard. President Obama has signed only 24 Senate bills into law during this Congress. In contrast, 91 bills from the House have been signed by the President into law. These are total bills of all different subjects.

Senate Democrats' sole concern seems to be protecting themselves from taking recorded votes that might anger their liberal donors or their voters. They do this by closing off debate, eliminating amendments, and writing their bills in secret, shutting out Republican voices and input.

This broken and dysfunctional Democrat Senate has produced many disasters for the American people and not just ObamaCare. They also passed the trillion dollar so-called Stimulus Act, refused for 4 years to pass a budget, and allowed the President to balloon the national debt in five short years from \$10 trillion to \$17 trillion.

Don't let the President or HARRY REID fool you with false narratives that those rascally Republicans are holding up the Nation's business. This is just another gimmick to shift the blame away from where it really lies.

Our country deserves better. Bills that would grow our economy and put millions of our friends and neighbors back to work should never die in the depths of the Democrat Senate. It is critical for every single American to let Senate Democrats know that they are sick and tired of the do-nothing Senate.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank Mr. LAMBORN.

If I may inquire, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I heard a little bit ago when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were talking about ObamaCare, and they said that Republicans tried to repeal it over 40 times; and that is true, we did.

We tried to fix it, with no help from the other side, but he said, twice, that we didn't have anything to offer. Again, that statement is not correct.

Look at H.R. 3121, American Health Care Reform Act. It repeals ObamaCare and puts together a health care program that physicians and hospital administrators and the public took part in suggesting what we need in a health care program, so it is there. It is backed up. H.R. 3121, we did do something.

Now, we need to talk a little bit about some issues concerning what my colleagues have said with regard to ObamaCare.

I just recently heard and verified this by my staff that the House minority

leader, NANCY PELOSI, said Tuesday that the Founding Fathers—talking about Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and Washington, the Founding Fathers—would be pleased with ObamaCare because it means that Americans can pursue happiness without being stuck with a job just to have health care.

□ 1715

This is the same person that says we have to pass it so we know what is in it. Well, we all know what is in it, and we all know what is not in it.

Now, I want to make a point clear. Congressman KELLY and myself, this is our second term. We new Members of the House, we have a little different approach to things.

This \$18 trillion of debt that we are in, this just didn't happen over the last couple of years. This happened over the last 50 years. I often say to my constituents, if I had the ability to have every living President in a group of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, and every leader, I would say to them: how dare you do this to us; how dare you, Republicans and Democrats, put us into this debt.

The Republicans had some opportunities when they had control of the House and the Senate a decade or so ago, but times are changing. There is a new breed here.

I just want to bring some issues to your attention concerning ObamaCare that the American people need to know about. When ObamaCare was first implemented, first told about what is going to happen, it was supposed to cover 60 million people. Again, go to the Congressional Budget Office Web site at www.cbo.gov. It is supposed to cover 60 million people at a cost of \$900 billion and some change over a 10-year period.

You were told you can keep your doctor; you can keep your health care program. If you didn't want to participate in ObamaCare, you didn't have to. And do you know something? It wasn't going to cost you one penny more. Well, the Congressional Budget Office just released new figures and they simply put it this way: instead of covering 60 million people, maybe—maybe—ObamaCare will cover 24 million people; and instead of costing \$900 billion, it now is closer to \$2 trillion.

And, oh, by the way, were you able to keep your insurance that you had prior to ObamaCare? No. The President said you could, but you can't.

Were you able to keep your physicians? In many instances, no.

Your rates weren't going up. How many of your rates stayed the same? We are talking about millions of people, millions and millions of people who lost insurance because of ObamaCare, and millions more whose insurance rates went up significantly.

The President waived more than 30 provisions of his law in order to try and make it work, number one.

Despite his promise that everyone who likes their plan can keep it, between 4 and 7 million Americans have had their health care plans canceled.

Approximately, 7.5 million seniors will be forced from their Medicare Advantage health care plan of choice in 2014. Others will see more than \$3,700 in services cut.

ObamaCare imposes 21 different taxes on Americans and businesses and an additional cost of more than \$1 trillion to Americans and the economy.

The workforce will shrink. My colleague said there is no evidence that the workforce would shrink. Well, you go to www.cbo.gov and you will read that the workforce will shrink by 2.5 million jobs because of ObamaCare. Not a good sign for the 4 million Americans who have been unemployed for over 6 months.

Eleven million small business employees will see premiums rise under ObamaCare.

And Medicaid, a program that already has reimbursement rates below Medicare and one in which one out of three doctors does not accept new patients will see enrollments rise by more than 91 million Americans, 34 million of whom are childless adults.

This, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Speaker, this does not work, and we have to fix it. We have offered a way to fix it, but the President said there is nothing wrong with it.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank Mr. MARINO.

I think, Mr. Speaker, as we draw to the end of time, I think it is time for us now to take a look at the world and our place in the world. Geopolitically, we know we have been hurt lately because America has decided to follow something called "leading from behind." I have absolutely no idea what that possibly could mean.

But I hear constantly about the next great emerging economy. You sit back and say, well, who could it possibly be? Well, let me tell you who it is, and it doesn't take much guesswork. It is us. It is the U.S.

Now, why do I say that? Because right now we are uniquely positioned in history at this moment in time to be the greatest economy the world has ever seen. Why? Because we have been blessed by our Creator with abundant, accessible, and affordable fossil fuels. These can be extracted safely, and that creates thousands of jobs. This can lower our cost per energy unit far below anyplace else in the world and allows us, in fact, to let our wages rise because our cost of producing goes down as far as energy is concerned.

What else we have, if you look just to the north of the district I serve, the Great Lake system is there. Lake Erie is there. Also what is there is one-fifth of the world's freshwater. Also, if you were to look at our land, our tillable soil, the production per acre that our people in agriculture are able to achieve.

So I would ask you then, at this point in time, at this point in history, if we know that really what we need to do is to have a robust and dynamic economy, what would be holding us

back? It certainly is not our cost of energy, because we are blessed with energy everywhere. It has been placed there by the Good Lord for us to use. Through new technology we are able to extract it. We are able to heat and cool our homes, to light our homes, to run our factories, to light our streets at night, to do almost anything we want to do at a rate that is lower than anyplace in the world.

In fact, we are at a point right now we don't have to rely on anybody else on this globe other than ourselves. We can be energy independent. We have drinking water that the rest of the world would love to have. And we have the ability to produce, as you know, Mr. Speaker, because of where you come from in California, the ability to produce food for a population that doesn't need to go starving, it doesn't need to look to the rest of the world for help, because we can create it right here, right now, for every single American.

The question becomes then: Why are we where we are at right now? Why do we have the lowest labor participation rate we have had in 35 years? My goodness, when you look at all the assets, when you can look at everything that we have, when you can look at the opportunities we have, when you can look at everything, being there and being within our grasp without too far of a reach to get there, the question becomes: What is holding us up? What is holding us back? What is keeping us from achieving that destiny that we have been granted by the Lord? What is keeping us from that?

Look, I would just say this. There are many, many millions of Americans that are out of work. All you have to do is go out of this Chamber and go down the hall and I can show you a lot of Americans that actually have a job that aren't working. I can show you a Senate that continues to sit on all these jobs bills, on all this legislation that would get America back to work.

I am so sick and tired of hearing about, well, you know, if the House would just do something. I will tell you something; I would suggest this: the President would wear out his fingers on that phone calling HARRY REID; in fact, his left arm would probably go numb from signing all the legislation that could be sitting on his desk right now.

What is holding it up? What is the roadblock? What is keeping us from that pathway to prosperity? Do you know what it is? It is a do-nothing Senate. It is a Senate that sits back and calls the American people liars. It is a Senate that sits back and distorts the facts. It is a Senate that puts out, every day, myths about a House of Representatives not working. It is a Senate that had to go under the gun to pass a budget and say: Do you know what? Here is the deal. You don't pass a budget, we don't pay you.

Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? You have to threaten them that you are going to cut their pay if they

don't pass a budget. Oh, Good Lord. I would like to see us do that in our schools. I would like to see us do that in our homes. I would like to see us do that in our factories and in our businesses in the private sector.

When we have to pass a bill to make them pass a budget, is that where we have reached? Have we reached the depths? Is that how low we have become?

It is a great honor and a privilege to serve in this House. It is a great honor to come before the people and to go home and say: We are working hard for you. We are going to do the best we can do.

But do you know what? It requires a little help. It requires a little help. This system, this system where there are two Chambers, it requires us being able to get things through the House, which we have done. 220 House-passed bills are stuck in a do-nothing Senate right now. It requires some teamwork now. It requires us to truly be the "united" States and not the "divided" States of America. It requires us to be a body that works for the American people and not for a political party. It requires us to work on an agenda that puts America back to work and does not worry about the next election that is coming up and worries about the new direction this country needs to go in.

It is a responsibility to take advantage of all those assets the Lord has given us; and it is time for the United States to now become the next great emerging economy, one that will be heralded all over the world, one that the rest of the world is looking to and scratching their head and says: My goodness, you have got everything. What is it that you are waiting for?

And the answer, again, is leadership. That leadership has got to take place, and it has got to take place soon.

We will continue to do our job in the House of Representatives. We will continue to push bills forward. We will continue to debate and amend bills. We will continue to pass bills, and we will walk them down the hall to the Senate. But after that, the Senate has to pick these bills up. It has to debate them. It has to amend them. It has to vote on them, and it has to send them down to the White House for the President's final signature.

If we are truly going to get America back to work, then let's get to work. My colleagues in the House have already heard that clarion call and they have done their job. I am just going to yell it down the hallway as we walk out of here tonight: Hey, you all need to get to work because America is waiting for you to lead. Then the phone should be ringing off the hook in Mr. REID's office and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as America says it is time to get up off your seat and get the job done.

It is time to quit talking the talk. It is time to walk the walk. It is time to actually do what we know we can do and take advantage of every single asset the Lord has provided for us.

I would just say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, thank you so much for allowing us to be here.

Mr. MARINO, always a pleasure to be with you, sir. As we go back to Pennsylvania, we will continue to fight those fights.

Mr. WENSTRUP is gone and also Mr. LAMBORN is gone, but it is good to have colleagues to join us.

I would just tell you this. If there is nobody that sits in this House of Representatives that doesn't want to see America do well, it is just time to get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am going to yield to Mr. MARINO, and he will finish up.

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I am going to hit on two areas here for a moment and ask the American people to get more involved, to call your Representatives, to call your Senators, demand from them that we get legislation passed through both Houses, or at least the legislation is brought to the floor for a vote. The American people deserve that.

As I said earlier, I am a states' rights guy, a constitutionalist, worked in a factory, worked in industry, and then put myself through college and law school.

My father, as I said, gave me a good life. My father was a firefighter, a janitor, a painter, and whatever else he could do to raise money to keep a roof over our heads and to feed us. He always said, if you are going to say something, first of all, to someone, that you look right in their eye and you speak the truth. You don't make it personal, and you base what you say on facts and you support those facts.

I am a true believer that Americans, over the last decade or two, even more so today, have been asked to do more with less. Their budgets are tight. Some are laid off. Some are completely out of jobs. They are working one and two and three part-time jobs. But we have the technology out there to create better jobs.

Also, the American people should demand that government operates the same way. I am a believer that the Federal Government is much too large. The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. It needs to be downsized by at least a third.

□ 1730

From those of us still here, the taxpayers should demand that we do more—do more with less—just like industry does, just like we do at home. The government should operate under that basis.

I am now going to switch back to ObamaCare for a moment. In an article of 2-24-2014 in *Forbes* magazine, it reads: "ObamaCare Will Cost 2.9 mil-

lion or More Jobs a Year." I have more health care people—physicians, hospitals, constituents—constantly calling me, saying, What am I going to do? I can't get insurance or I cannot afford this insurance. We, the Republicans, have put a proposal together, and we would like to see that voted on. We would like to see that get over to the Senate.

I also want to bring something else to your attention concerning ObamaCare, and it is concerning our young people, the future of this country. I have met so many bright young people who are out of college but who cannot get a job. They are very talented. They are smart individuals. There was a feature issue put out by Sea Change, and it was a poll. It reads: "Policy Feature Issue: ObamaCare and Youth—Why Millennials are Right to be Concerned." These are young people, particularly those out of college who can't find work.

It reads:

A recent poll of millennials, released by Harvard's Institute of Politics, found that, today, "only 41 percent of millennials approve of the President's performance, down 11 points since Harvard's last survey in April."

I am going to go further on to read:

With respect to ObamaCare, young Americans are even more suspicious. More than half of the poll's responders believe that health care costs will increase under ObamaCare, with 44 percent indicating that they believe the quality of care will decline. Moreover, almost two-thirds of the respondents say they do not plan to enroll in ObamaCare, which, if accurate, would be extremely problematic for the future viability of the Federal exchanges.

The White House just released that now they have—I heard it on the floor today—almost 7 million. It was 7 million, and then it was over 7 million. Again, the White House has not been consistent with its numbers, and it hasn't, I believe, given all of the information. I read an article here in which it says they are touting that 6 million, 7 million—whatever figure they have come up with—got on the Web site and signed up. There is a big difference there, folks, because, Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between signing up and paying. This article stated that most of those individuals who signed up did not pay and that they project that those individuals will not pay. That is what this ObamaCare health care plan was relying on, for young people who are in good health today to pay. Yet they are saying, I am in good health. Why should I bail others out?

Now, let me make this perfectly clear. I believe that everyone should have health care. My daughter has cystic fibrosis, a disease for which there is no cure. The hoops that my wife and I had to jump through and still are jumping through in order to cover my daughter are extraordinary. If there are people out there who cannot afford health care, we, as Americans, have to help them. We have to pay for them. We have to give them health care. That

is what America is about. That is what Americans do. We help people. We try to improve the quality of life.

I am asking, Mr. Speaker, that the American people get more involved in the political system, to be aware of what is out there, to hear what is going on. You heard what I stated and what I cited. Check my facts. Follow up. Just don't take what you hear as actual fact and actual truth. Back it up. Ask your elected officials, Where did you get that information? On what did you base it?

It is about time, as my colleague Congressman KELLY said, that we level the playing field, that we take the handcuffs and the restraints off of hardworking taxpayers so they can give their children and their grandchildren a better way of life. I know that we can do that in this country. We are the greatest country in the world. I am a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I am a member of the NATO alliance. I talk to people who represent 27 other countries about how great America is and about how they look to us and what we can do. Even the countries that do not like us look to America for leadership. They look to America for a better way of life, not only here in the U.S. but around the world.

I have to tell you that every time I drive from Williamsport, Pennsylvania—the 10th Congressional District there—after a week of listening to my constituents and seeing what they go through—my farmers, businesspeople, homemakers, single moms, men who can't find jobs, women who have to work two and three part-time jobs to raise their families—I know we have a responsibility. As I turn on to Independence and as I see the dome of this beautiful building, I can't believe that I am fortunate enough to be here, to represent not only my 10th Congressional District in Pennsylvania but all of America, but it is a responsibility that I chose. It is a responsibility for which I have to continue to fight every day of my life.

I heard one of my colleagues say—and I am going to borrow his line, and I am going to ad-lib it a little bit. He would say to his people as he was speaking to them in a group—and he would stand up and take his glasses off—do you see this line here, this wrinkle here? This was caused by fighting to keep your taxes low. Do you see this wrinkle here? This was caused by making sure that the American people know what we are voting on. This line here was caused to make sure that there is a level playing field, and there is still room on my face for more lines and more wrinkles to keep fighting.

That is what I am going to do—that is what we all should be doing here in the House—to keep fighting for the American people. Down the road, I want someone to say to my children, Do you know something? When your father was a Member of Congress, he did the right thing for the American people and for his constituents.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I think my time is pretty close to the end, is it not?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I will take this brief opportunity to thank my colleagues Mr. MARINO and Mr. WENSTRUP for being here and Mr. LAMBORN for being here and for your indulgence and for the American people's.

We have often said—and we have shared these moments together many times—that we have not just a responsibility but an obligation not just to ourselves and to our current generation but to all of those who came before us for all of the sacrifices that they made—for the 1.6 million men and women in uniform who gave their lives that we could have this moment today and those into the future. We have a responsibility to guarantee to them that we made a conscious decision to make sure that their future would be as secure as the one that we were given.

In having said all of that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. I want to thank my friends, Mr. Speaker, who are both from Pennsylvania, for their superb comments. They are so right on everything they have said.

In following up on those comments, there was an article today from The Washington Free Beacon: "Employers Say ObamaCare Will Cost Them \$5,000 More Per Employee." How much more can businesses absorb?

Actually, in the last month, we have been finding out about more groups that are getting money from a health care program informally called "ObamaCare," because it is so hard to call it "affordable" when it is not. They are groups that are getting money from the Federal Government that, it sounds like, are using it more as an opportunity to register voters as Democrats when that money could be used to get a pacemaker or to get a mammogram or to replace a knee for some 85-year-old widow who could really use a new knee or a new hip. Yet millions and millions of dollars are being paid to groups to go out and find people and to do all they can to get them signed up so they can say they had 7 million people sign up. They sign them up all over the country, using millions and millions of dollars that should have been for health care, yet they are using it to try to recruit votes for the Democratic Party. Millions and millions and millions of dollars are being spent on hiring big names that young people will recognize to go on television, to go on radio to try and talk people into signing up for health

care to pay for the health care of others—because they hope they are in good health and won't need it—and that will fund all of the millions and millions of dollars that they are paying to celebrities to convince them to buy ObamaCare.

We know that insurance companies cannot run like the Federal Government and, certainly, not like the executive branch. They can't just announce 7 million people have bought a product if they have not bought it. I haven't seen any insurance companies come out and say, Do you know what? We have had 1.5 million of these or we have had 3 million of these 7 million. Insurance companies have to know who has paid for their services, who has paid for their products. They can't just go along and announce to the IRS, We had 7 million people who bought our products. We don't know who paid for them. We will probably not know for a year or so. We don't know, but 7.1 million have bought our products, but you are going to have to give us a pass for a year or two until we find out who actually paid for it, and then we will eventually get around to telling you how much we owe you in income tax from all of the people who bought or who didn't buy our insurance. They can't work like that, because the IRS will not let them work like that. The insurance companies have to know how much money has come through their doors. They have to account for it. They can't get into this magical math that the executive branch gets into that 7.1 million have paid for ObamaCare and count that as some kind of glorious thing.

We were told there were over 30 million people who didn't have health care and that that was the whole reason health care, itself, had to be turned upside down. Cancer patients had to be turned away from their cancer treatment providers. Of the people who had the doctors they wanted, who were doing great things for their health—keeping them alive—oh, they had to lose them because we had over 30 million who didn't have health insurance. Then we were told, of the 7.1 million or so who may have acquired health insurance under ObamaCare, there is only a small fraction of them who were people who didn't have insurance, part of the 30 or so million who didn't have insurance.

If you are going to cut off people's cancer treatments and if you are going to cut off their ability to get the health care they need—cut off their ability to go to the cancer hospitals they have been going to for treatment—if you are going to basically bring people's lives to an early end because we have got to help those 30 million or so who don't have insurance, then wouldn't you want to get the 30 million signed up? Why are you happy that it is only, maybe, 1 million or 2 million or many fewer who didn't have insurance who have signed up? If it is a fraction of the 7 million who have actu-

ally paid, and if it is an even smaller part of the fraction who paid who didn't have health insurance before and who were part of the 30-plus million, then how is that a good thing?

Why did every Democrat in the House and in the Senate who thought it was such a good idea without a single Republican's input—we didn't get to have any input in ObamaCare. They shoved it through this body and down the throats of the American people. They shoved it through the Senate, and they had to do it quickly before Scott Brown ended up in office, in having that seat. Tragically, they shoved it through without any bipartisan assistance, so nearly half of Americans were not represented in the creation of that bill.

□ 1745

It wasn't done on C-SPAN, as the candidate for President, Senator Obama, had promised. It was done in back rooms at the White House, here. Who knows where. We don't even know who was present.

We know there were some union leaders that met with the President about it, without anybody there to record what was said. We know that they ended up wanting every health care worker eventually to be a union member because their numbers have declined everywhere except in the area of government workers, where Franklin Roosevelt said we should never even have government unions.

So if the 30-plus million who purportedly didn't have health insurance were the real important reason we had to turn health care upside down, that we had to cut \$716 billion from Medicare, so seniors are not going to be able to get care they would have before ObamaCare was passed, if we had to turn away seniors from health care they need just for those 30-plus million that don't have insurance, then why should we be happy that maybe only one-thirtieth or so of that has signed up for insurance?

In the 4 years since ObamaCare passed, the best they could do is sign up 1 million of the 30 or so million that didn't have insurance. That is a good thing?

Most Americans are ready to have some real reform, like having competition. If you need an MRI, you shouldn't have to do like one of the people in my office who was in Boston and under RomneyCare at the time.

The President said they modeled ObamaCare after RomneyCare. She was in a car wreck and couldn't get an MRI for a month or so after the wreck, so she had to fly back to Texas and get an MRI to find out she had broken bones.

This is the kind of care we are heading to. You get put on a list. This is what happens in England and Canada, and that is coming to a health care provider near you. You will get on the list. Why? Because we are told 30 million people didn't have health insurance.